



June 2020

The Vision

News and updates from and about the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services
Elizabeth Caywood, Deputy Commissioner

Family Support

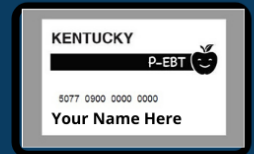
- During the month of April, the Division of Family Support (DFS) continued to focus on all things COVID-19, particularly how to adjust programs to best respond to the crisis and support Kentuckians who rely on their support. In all, the division has issued 10 pieces of instructional material to the field and asked for nine additional waivers and requests from the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to better serve those receiving SNAP benefits. Among those are the ability to waive the interview requirement and to implement online purchasing of groceries. DFS staff also worked hard to enter Medicaid applications for all the individuals released from jails and prisons
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Food Nutrition Service (FNS) approved some extensions of operational waivers for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) into the month of June, including a waiver of the interview requirement. The Office of the Ombudsman is pursuing an extension of waiving quality control reviews into the month of June. Additionally, all SNAP households will once again receive the maximum benefit allotment for June. FNS will approve these extensions on a month-by-month basis.
- The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program, operated by the 23 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) across the state, received additional \$16M for two years through the CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 emergency. Plan and budget proposals from the CAAs are undergoing review now. Once this funding is in place, DCBS staff may be able to refer individuals for emergency assistance for a wider range of situations than CAAs have been able to help with in the past. Local conversations with CAAs are encouraged to understand what's available locally and how to make referrals.



- In May, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) began a spring subsidy program to help with cooling costs. Thanks to some additional CARES funds for that program, CAAs will be able to serve households with higher incomes and will not require an asset test. The spring subsidy program runs through the end of July, and a summer subsidy/crisis component (for those facing cut-off during the summer months) will be added in July and run through October.
- Emergency and ordinary amendments to 921 KAR 2:015 governing the State Supplementation Program were filed on December 27, 2019, in order to pass on the federal cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the standard of need for individuals receiving Supplemental Security Income, effective January 2020. The ordinary amendment is anticipated to undergo legislative review in June and become effective this summer.
- Emergency and ordinary amendments to 921 KAR 3:025 were filed on April 15, 2020, in order to eliminate child support arrears as a component of the technical eligibility allowing disqualification from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The emergency version was effective immediately and the ordinary version is in the public comment period through June 30, 2020.

P-EBT Food Benefits Assistance

- P-EBT is for Kentucky children eligible for free/reduced meals that were affected by school closures
- Federal assistance - up to \$313.50 per student
- Use for eligible grocery items
- Funding available even if students received emergency school meals
- For families getting benefits through DCBS: no need to apply, you'll automatically receive P-EBT
- If no benefits received, apply or get information: benefind.ky.gov or 1-855-306-8959



kycovid19.ky.gov



Family Support

- Emergency and ordinary amendments to 922 KAR 6:010 were filed on May 21, 2020, in order to immediately utilize federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to increase the eligibility income limit for programs and services provided through Community Services Block Grant funding. The emergency version was effective immediately and the ordinary version is in the public comment period through August 30, 2020.
- Emergency and ordinary amendments to 921 KAR 4:116 were filed on May 28, 2020, in order to immediately utilize federal CARES Act funding to increase the eligibility income limit for services provided with Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grant funding and provide summer cooling assistance. The emergency version was effective immediately and the ordinary version is in the public comment period through August 30, 2020.
- Key Performance Data as of June 1, 2020 -
 - SNAP – 645,167 (an increase from 3/1/2020 of 133,582)
 - Medicaid – 1,399,950 (an increase from 3/1/2020 of 45,058)
 - PE Medicaid – 55,459 (increase from 5/25/2020 of 6,110)

Child Care

- Kentucky has officially published its plan to reopen child care. Information on the plan is on the KY COVID-19 website under the Healthy at Work Page or may be found at the following link:
<https://go.aws/2UkVBum>
- Expiration dates for Registered, Out-of-State and Military child care providers due for renewals in June will be moved out to September 2020.
- The Division of Child Care has been processing stipends/bonuses, All STARS incentives, and Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) reimbursements to regulated child care providers and limited duration child care programs (LDCs) in effort support the child care community and parents during the COVID state of emergency. Disbursements through May as provided June 1:

Healthy at Work

REOPENING KENTUCKY

To ensure the health and safety of Kentucky families, Governor Beshear urges Kentuckians to remain Healthy at Home and follow the federal and state protocols for limiting the spread of COVID-19, which can be found at kycovid19.ky.gov. Everyone needs to do their part for themselves, their loved ones, and our community. We have a responsibility to ourselves and to each other to protect our state and our community. However, Kentucky families and businesses must also prepare to reopen our economy.

Healthy at Work is a phased approach to reopen Kentucky's economy. It is based on criteria set by public health experts and advice from industry experts. Each phase will be rolled out in steps to ensure the Commonwealth's citizens can safely return to work while still protecting the most vulnerable Kentuckians.

"We not only want to get through this. We want to come out strong and ready to rebuild."

- Governor Andy Beshear

	Federal	General	Tobacco	Total
KY All Stars Payments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 554,054.00	\$ 554,054.00
CCDF Enrollment CCAP Payments	\$ 24,371,094.09	\$ 5,026,909.09	\$ -	\$ 29,398,003.18
Milestone & Educational Awards	\$ 12,255.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,255.00
CARES \$225 Stipend	\$ 32,795,100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32,795,100.00
CARES LDC \$250 Stipend	\$ 812,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 812,000.00
CARES LDC Hero Bonus	\$ 453,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 453,000.00
CARES LDC CCAP Payment	\$ 136,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 136,000.00
Total	\$ 58,579,449.09	\$ 5,026,909.09	\$ 554,054.00	\$ 64,160,412.18
Total CARES Funding	\$ 34,196,100.00			

- Child Care Aware of Kentucky (CCA) staff continue to support all child care programs through remote technical assistance and professional development opportunities. Trainings have included free weekly offerings focused on early care and education topics as well as remote options for adult learning hours through a hybrid version of their cancelled Trainer's Institute.

Child Care

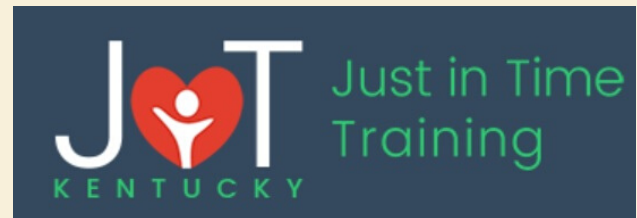
- Early Care and Education-Training Record Information System (ECE-TRIS) continues to see a rise in remote learning as well as training requests submissions for out of state training approvals. Comparing 2019 and 2020 data for April 16 – May 16, participants of online learning increased 90%. The number of non-face-to-face training requests for out-of-state training from this time last year has increased from 64 to 384 requests.
- Due to the interruption caused by Kentucky's State of Emergency and the highly contagious COVID-19, the Division of Child Care's Professional Development Section continues to extend expiration dates and deadlines for providers and trainers.
- National Background Check Program (NBCP) - KARES ceased providing in-person government services as of March 17, 2020, therefore there have been no new applications completed during May 2020. All application deadlines were extended to prevent expiration during the State of Emergency issued by the Governor. Currently, DCC continues to process Child Abuse and Neglect Registry Checks for Limited Duration Center staff.
- The Expanding High Quality Family Child Care Initiative has been hard at work, building a rapid community response plan to support family child care providers as they return to work. Currently, the Expanding High Quality Team's is working with the advisory team on finalizing the plan, as well as working diligently to increase awareness and support for the Business and Family Child Care Partnership.
- Amendments to 922 KAR 2:090 and 2:100 (licensure and certification requirements for child care facilities and homes) were filed in October 2019 in order to include requirements on contract substitute child care center employees. These amendments passed legislative review in May and are expected to go into effect this summer.
- A draft emergency administrative regulation is being prepared to be filed and effective in June. The administrative regulation will include requirements for certified family child care homes and licensed child care centers that wish to re-open amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The administrative regulation will be in place for 270 days or until the cabinet withdraws the regulation in the instance that the additional COVID-19 requirements are no longer necessary.
- 922 KAR 2:120 will be amended for compliance with Senate Bill 45 (Regular Session 2020). DCC is working to obtain the recommendations of advisory councils and state and national experts to implement the required standards.
- Key Performance Data - As of June 4, there were 17,044 families and 30,746 children receiving CCAP.

Protection and Permanency - Adult Protective Services

- Adult Protection Branch liaison for the Local Coordinating Councils on Elder Abuse continues to send daily emails entitled "APS Comforting Thoughts" to the councils. The email is designed to provide councils and APS staff with community resource information during COVID-19, helpful tips, and uplifting quotes.
- The Adult Protection Branch participated on the National Adult Protective Services Association South East regional call Tuesday, May 26. The call discusses how APS teams are managing during the pandemic and for states to share information that may be beneficial to the group.
- The APS branch has received 23 Notices of Fatality for the month of April, and one was confirmed to be COVID-19 related. In comparing the numbers to 2019 data, the numbers have not increased.
- An amendment to 922 KAR 8:010 was filed on April 30, 2020. This administrative regulation was last amended in 2001 and is in need of many updates relating to rape crisis and mental health services, and updates necessary for statutory compliance. This amendment is in the public comment period through July 31, 2020.

Protection and Permanency - Child Welfare

- In partnership with the University of South Florida, Kentucky's Just in Time website launched on March 16, 2020. Just in Time has been a support for Kentucky families during Healthy at Home. In April, 833 training certificates were issued to foster parents across the state. There were 4,168 total page views and 3,266 unique page views in April. New trainings are being planned for upload on the site.



Protection and Permanency - Child Welfare

- The Fostering Success program will be implemented in three phases this year due to DCBS' need to be flexible during the state of emergency.
- The first phase of Fostering Success will begin with a Summer Skills Series Program, which will be a virtual program offered to youth to enhance vocational skills. This program is at capacity and a waiting list has been created. Therefore, DCBS has partnered with True Up, an organization in Louisville, which has offered to support 15 additional youth in the program.
- The second phase will include an "Earn and Learn" program, which is a partnership with Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) to provide support services to youth participating in the "Earn and Learn" through their Pre-Employment Specialists. The Specialists will work with the youth from the beginning to complete the application process through selection of the appropriate trade program and ongoing support throughout the duration of the program. This is being offered at no cost to DCBS. The final phase of the program will include traditional internship opportunities depending on the availability of employers and continuous assessment of the health and safety of the public and youth.
- An addendum to the private child placing (PCP) agreement was executed on behalf of foster youth turning 21 prior to June 30, 2020. This addendum has allowed youth to receive extended services and housing during the state of emergency. DCBS is currently working on a report for the agencies to complete to document services they are providing to ensure the youth are prepared for their transition.
- DCBS has been in contact with all of Kentucky state colleges to ensure they are aware of the changes made to the tuition waiver as a result of Senate Bill 115. DCBS is discussing a process with the colleges to assist DCBS in identifying youth who are potentially eligible under the new criteria. DCBS is working to revise the new tuition waiver form to be ready when the statute goes into effect.
- The Youth Empowerment Conference is scheduled to be held virtually on June 19-20, 2020.
- On May 18, 2020, there were five children decertified in their psychiatric placement settings, one of these decertified cases is placed out of state. There are a total of eight children placed in treatment facilities out of state, of which one is de-certified and pending return to Kentucky.
- The Child Protection Branch facilitated a meeting with DPP staff, Capacity Building Center for States, National Center on Crime and Delinquency, Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Division of Service Regions to begin discussions related to the threshold screening analysis. This analysis provides useful information about the agency's screening practices, including the percentage of calls screened in when maltreatment had occurred (resulting in substantiation), the percentage of calls screened out when families did not need services (no subsequent maltreatment occurred), the percentage of calls screened in when the family did not actually need services, and the percentage of calls screened out when maltreatment was actually occurring (subsequent maltreatment substantiated within very short timeframe). DPP and partners will continue to utilize this analysis to inform practice and make policy revisions as needed.
- START is currently being reviewed as a possible Evidence Based Practice (EBP) for Family First by the Prevention Services Clearinghouse administered by the U.S. Administration for Children and Families
- Consultants from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago participated in virtual meetings this month assisting DCBS staff and private prevention providers with the development of a Family First Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) design. Clinical staff from our prevention programs, DPP prevention staff, data, evaluators, and other programmatic staff met to ensure a collaborative approach to EBP fidelity monitoring tools and a strong CQI design.
- DCBS has worked diligently to expand in-home prevention services within its control despite limited available funding. Contracts for further expansion of Family Preservation Program (FPP) contracts and expansion of the Kentucky Strengthening Ties and Empowering Parents (KSTEP) program were recently executed. These contract expansions will increase FPP services by 32% and KSTEP services by 44%.
- DCBS is finalizing a proposal for the Family First Transition Act grant funding to assist with expansion of EBP capacity as well as additional expansion of IV-E reimbursable prevention services.

Protection and Permanency - Child Welfare

- The CQI Redesign project continues to be underway as the focus remains becoming a more data-informed, outcomes-driven, and family focused agency. DCBS continues to work with the consultants from the Capacity Building Center for States (the Center) who are providing guidance to the CQI Self-Assessment team and the CQI Academy Training team. The CQI Self-Assessment team has finished phase one of the agency self-assessment and are currently compiling the findings to make recommendations to leadership. The CQI Academy Training team will be going through the fourth session with the Center, the focus largely on the problem-solving process in the CQI Cycle of Learning and Improvement. The six former Child Welfare Transformation teams, now the CQI/Quality Assurance teams, postponed their quarterly meetings; however, rescheduling will begin in the coming weeks. Overall, the agency's efforts toward the CQI redesign, are moving forward, and progress toward a late summer, early fall implementation is anticipated.
- A Request for Information (RFI) for Family First Prevention Services expired on April 30, 2020. This RFI was issued to gauge the availability of EBPs and readiness of the provider network to serve families throughout Kentucky. Consultants from Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago will be assisting DCBS in the analysis of RFI responses to guide further prevention expansion efforts.
- DCBS and Public Consulting Group (PCG) consultants continue to work with current contracted prevention service providers to expand EBP training and optimize claiming under title IV-E prevention services.
- An emergency amendment to 922 KAR 1:490 was filed on May 12, 2020, in order to waive the fingerprint-based background check for foster parents and out-of-home caregivers temporarily during the COVID-19 pandemic. DPP received federal guidance that name-based checks will suffice during the pandemic as long as fingerprint-based checks are conducted once it is safe to do so.
- Key Performance Data
 - Comparison data regarding reports of maltreatment during the state of emergency is as follows:
 - Total reports with allegations of child maltreatment April 2019: 10,906
 - Total reports with allegations of child maltreatment in April 2020: 5,868
 - **This data includes intakes that included allegations of child abuse and/or neglect, and not calls related to adult maltreatment or other response types.
 - As of May 26, 2020, 169 youth have been tested, resulting in 20 positive tests. The vast majority of the positive tests are among youth at Maryhurst. Of these, more than half have been subsequently retested resulting in negative results (recovered). Most youth who have tested positive have been asymptomatic or displayed very mild symptoms.
 - On March 9, there were 9,750 children in out-of-home care. As of May 31, there were 10,023, a slight decrease from prior weeks.



Department Operations

- As some employees begin to transfer back to work locations, tax forms will need to be updated and submitted to the Office of Human Resource Management.
- Those employees wishing to vote with mail-in ballot will still be eligible for 4 hours of vote leave. They can count the leave on the actual day they cast their vote (complete and mail the form). Vote leave forms must still be completed and signed by supervisors. Electronic signatures will be accepted.



Department Operations

- The Safety Administrators in each Service Region are working with Safety and Facilities Branch Manager Tim Driskell to distribute face shields, KN95 masks, cloth masks, hand sanitizer and thermometers to local DCBS offices.
- During this pandemic, approximately 81% of staff have been telecommuting. Most staff have expressed positive experiences with telecommuting. Telecommuting continues to be encouraged if at all possible.
- Social Work Licensure and Ethics training is now offered 100% online and is approved by the Kentucky Board of Social Work for 3 CEU's. This training is for new and tenured staff and meets the requirement for the social work code of ethics as established in 201 KAR 23:080.

URL: <https://learn.trc.eku.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=448>

- The Curricula Media Group (CMG) at EKU is currently working on communication materials for Kentucky Kinship Navigator. Communication materials are designed to increase awareness and promote utilization of available relative and fictive kin services in Kentucky, including the new Kinship Navigator Portal. Materials include a pop-up banner for community/informational events, program brochures, and several informational one pagers.
- There are 36 May 2020 Public Child Welfare Certification Program (PCWCP) graduates who are now applying for positions within DCBS. The graduates are from the following university Bachelor of Social Work Programs: Brescia University (1), Campbellsville University (7), Eastern Kentucky University (1), Morehead State University (5), Northern Kentucky University (5), University of Kentucky (9), University of Louisville (6) and Western Kentucky University (2).
- As part of the KORE DCBS Training Project, the second administration of the OUD/SUD Attitudes, Values and Beliefs Survey will begin on June 1, 2020. All DCBS employees will be receiving a link to the brief online survey via email. The survey will remain open through July 9, 2020.
- The following web-based trainings (WBT) are in development: Child Care Enrollment or Co-Pays WBT, System Matches for Family Support WBT, and How to Correctly Complete a FS 103 WBT.
- DCBS is preparing presentations to be given to legislative committees over the interim, which begins in June. DCBS expects to regularly present on child care, child welfare, public assistance, staffing issues, and budget matters over the interim.
- Key Performance Data - April Staffing Numbers: 71 additions and 36 losses



Self-Care Corner

Staying resilient during a pandemic isn't easy. Caring professionals like DCBS staff who serve families while taking care of their own – and themselves – especially need to develop coping strategies to complete day-to-day activities and deal with future challenges.

One way to stay mentally strong is to adjust your thought process. It's difficult to maintain an optimistic outlook when the future feels so uncertain, but positive thinking will help you focus on hope and visualize better times ahead.

When you feel flooded with negative thoughts, own them.

When you say your thoughts out loud and talk through them, or even write them down, they lose their power over you. So embrace your negative thought, think about where it stems from and list three positive alternative thoughts. Suggest this technique to coworkers and family. Anyone from adults to young children can learn and grow from this method.

